

CLAIMS:

1. A navigation assembly for use in a vehicle comprising:
a navigational device; and
5 a carrying case sized and configured to removably fit substantially within a tray of the vehicle and configured to substantially enclose the navigational device.
2. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tray is originally
10 installed in the vehicle during manufacture of the vehicle.
3. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the tray is
positioned on a dashboard of the vehicle.
4. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the tray includes
15 electrical connections for connecting the navigational device to a power source and data source supplied by the vehicle.
5. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the carrying case
20 includes a base and a hinged lid, such that the lid encloses the base when the case is closed.
6. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the case may
easily and quickly be removed from the tray.
- 25 7. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 6, further including a speaker contained within the case.
8. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the navigational
30 device and speaker are both positioned within the base of the case.

9. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 8, further including a hinged cradle operable to mount within the case and sized and configured to receive the navigational device.

10. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the cradle includes first and second axes of rotation, such that the navigational device, when mounted in the cradle, may be positioned in a variety of viewing angles.

11. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the cradle is operable to pivot from a folded, nested position that is substantially flat within the case to an upwards, viewing position approximately perpendicular to the base of the case.

12. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 11, wherein the navigational device may easily and quickly be mounted in and removed from the cradle.

13. The navigational assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the navigational device and speaker are both positioned within the lid of the case, such that when the case is open, the navigational device is in a viewing position.

14. The navigational assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the navigational device is a global positioning satellite device including -
a navigation component,
a processor coupled with the navigation component,
a memory coupled with the processor,
a display,
an input, and
a housing for housing the navigation component, the processor, and the memory.

15. A navigation assembly for use in a vehicle comprising:
a navigational device; and
a hinged cradle sized and configured to removably support the navigational
device and configured to pivotably mount within a tray of the vehicle.
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16. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 15, wherein the tray is
originally installed in the vehicle during manufacture of the vehicle.
17. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 16, wherein the tray is
10 positioned on a dashboard of the vehicle.
18. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 17, further including a lid
configured to enclose the navigational device and cradle.
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19. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 18, wherein the lid is
hingedly mounted to the tray.
20. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 19, wherein the hinged
cradle is operable to pivot from a generally flat, nested position within the tray
20 upwards to an approximately perpendicular position with respect to the flat position.
21. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 20, wherein the cradle
includes first and second axes of rotation, such that the navigational device, when
mounted in the cradle, may be positioned in a variety of viewing angles.
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22. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 21, wherein the tray may be
retrofitted with electrical connections for connecting the navigational device to a
power source and data source supplied by the vehicle.
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23. The navigation assembly as claimed in claim 16, wherein the navigational
device is a global positioning satellite device including -
a navigation component,

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 - a processor coupled with the navigation component,
 - a memory coupled with the processor,
 - a display,
 - an input, and
- 5 a housing for housing the navigation component, the processor, and the memory.

24. A method of providing navigational capabilities to a vehicle not originally equipped with such capabilities, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a carrying case sized and configured to fit substantially within an existing tray of the vehicle;
5 providing a navigational device sized to fit within the carrying case;
hingedly securing the navigational device within the carrying case so that it may pivot from a non-viewing position to a viewing position;
mounting the navigational device in the carrying case; and
locating the carrying case in the tray, such that when in the viewing position,
10 the navigational device within the case is easily viewed by a driver of the vehicle.

25. The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the tray was originally installed in the vehicle during manufacture of the vehicle.

26. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the tray is positioned in a dashboard of the vehicle.

27. The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the tray may be retrofitted with electrical connections for connecting the navigational device to a power source and data source supplied by the vehicle.

28. The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the carrying case includes a base and a hinged lid, such that when the navigational device is pivoted to a flat, nesting position within the case, the lid is operable to enclose the navigational device,
25 and when the navigational device is pivoted upwards in a viewing position, the lid is operable to pivot upwards and rest generally against a top of the navigational device.

29. The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the navigational device is a global positioning satellite device including -
30 a navigation component,
a processor coupled with the navigation component,

a memory coupled with the processor,
a display,
an input, and
a housing for housing the navigation component, the processor, and the
memory.

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